

## Fond Memories of Jack Day

Art Ekerson remembered his neighbor on Groveland Avenue, Jerry Lambo remembered his friend from high school, and Bill Purdy remembered the games of gin rummy. They were remembering good times with their friend Jack Day.



Jack at the Club's 2014 Summer Party

Jack Day died last week leaving a wife, Nancy, four children (John, Michael, Chad, and Christy) and a large circle of friends, including many of us in the University Club. Jack was the Club's longest serving member; his grandfather was one of the founders of the Club. Jack regularly ate lunches at the club, he was a long time Trustee of both the Club and its Foundation, and the Roxy Ann Vineyard was an ongoing benefactor to the Club and its Foundation.

Jerry Lambo remembers Jack from high school at Medford High, class of 1953. Jerry was 2 classes ahead of Jack but was close in part because Jack dated Jerry's sister, Nancy, and took her to the senior prom. Jack was a fun, generous friend. "Jack was a sophomore in high school but he had a nice new Ford sedan and a motor boat that hooked onto a trailer. He would take classmates up to Lake of the Woods, where several of us learned to water ski. We joked that he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, but he let others use it."

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**Special  
Member  
Meeting**  
—  
**Monday  
November 10**

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Art Ekerson met Jack as a close neighbor back when there were only 4 houses on Groveland, as Art remembered it. Jack was 2 years younger and they attended Roosevelt Elementary School together. He, too, remembered fun times at Lake of the Woods with Jack, where they spent summers at the Boy Scout camp. Both were in the “most active Boy Scout Troop in the Valley, the famous Troop 3,” Art said. “We both became Eagle Scouts.”

Art remembered good times. “That’s where we learned to sail, on a 14-foot sailboat, named The Tub.” For many years we shared a sailboat up in the San Juan Islands. Jack loved sailing.” Art also remembered good times racing cars on closed courses around southern Oregon. Jack and I both drove Porsches. Back in the 1960’s jet boats were brand new and we were the first people to ride a jet boat up the Rogue, from Gold Beach up to Grants Pass. Blossom Bar wasn’t the worst. There were some narrow places just downstream that scared us both. And there was the time we crashed a plane.”

Art said that he and Jack were flying to Sun Valley and planned a nighttime landing at the small unlighted, uncontrolled airport. “We were sure we could see where we were, a lovely smooth runway ahead of us, with a dark ditch on either side. We misunderstood the situation. The “ditch” was actually the runway on one side and the taxiway on the other. We landed on the median strip between them. And there was five feet of new powdered snow on it. The plane hit the snow, the wheels snapped off, we came to a sudden stop, and the plane tipped over. We managed to get out, take our skis, get to the pavement and walk to a bar. Jack was fine, I was fine. The plane was totaled.”

The lives of Jerry Lambo and Jack Day intersected multiple times. In high school Jack was the head cheerleader his sophomore year and the student delegate to the Student Council. It was interrupted by Jack’s getting polio about the same time as three other students at Medford High. It affected Jack’s shoulder and he spent over six months in Eugene

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## The Club Faces Choices

Your Board has worked diligently since the August 6 Annual Meeting at which Members instructed us to investigate plans to reopen and preserve the Club. The result of that work is captured in two distinctly different approaches which will be formally presented to the Members at a Special Member Meeting to be held at RoxyAnn Winery on November 10.

The two plans we are presenting to the Membership are as follows:

**Plan #1 - Retain ownership of the Club House** and return to operation without any resident staff. All lunch-





Scholarship Foundation president, Jack Day at the 2016 Scholarship luncheon

in a hospital. But he was “one of the lucky ones,” as Club members heard Jack tell the story.

He survived and got back some—but not all—of his arm and shoulder function.

Jerry was ahead of Jack in high school, but one year behind him at the Harvard Business School. “By then Jack had two children and his family lived in housing in Watertown, and we commuted in together. There

were these groups, among them the Marketing Club. One memorable incident was when Jack and I had lunch at a small table with Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicholas.”

Bill Purdy shared many, many lunches with Jack at the round tables of the University Club. “On Tuesdays and Fridays would meet after lunch and play some low stakes gin rummy. We had a good group, Jack, Dave Bolton, Tom Barry, and myself. It was a friendly game and sometimes a player would sometimes win or lose ten or twenty dollars, Bill said. “Jack would joke that he never lost a game. There was always a lot of gentle trash talk. That’s really what the games were all about.”

Ron Kramer observes that Jack was a member of the Club board through the time that Ron has served as president and that Jack had a keen, observant sense of humor. “Jack would quietly toss a zinger onto the table and break up the entire board. He was also the guy who found even the tiniest elements of the Club’s monthly financials that required additional explanation. He was always extremely sharp.” Ron also noted that, historically going back to the post-World War 2 years, the senior and most respected members had self-designated seats

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Upon Jack Day’s resignation from the U Club Board in September, the Board appointed Bill Thorndike to fill Jack’s seat.

Thanks Bill! - and Welcome!

es would be ordered under a reservation system and provided using an outside caterer. The Club would abolish meal minimums and Members would only pay for meals they ordered. The bar would likely not be staffed so bar service would likely not be available. Until such time as coronavirus limitations on restaurants were lifted, the Club could accommodate a total of 12 individuals with 2 seated at each round table. Attached to the Plan #1 description, you’ll find a “seating chart” for socially distanced seating in the Club House.

Plan 1 has some positives and negatives. One of strengths of this club is continuity and tradition. Our building is a familiar place, and lunches there are a habit people may want to restore. Making a change may create new interest for current and potential members but it may also be a trigger for resignations because it involves starting new habits like pre-registration for all lunches.



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The Board has regretfully accepted the resignation of John Bowling.

in the dining room which no one else occupied. No one ever really discussed the fact that Jack always sat in the same seat at the table but it was still “Jack’s seat” from which he seemed to have an endless supply of fascinating stories. He was just larger than life.”

Jack served his community. He was on the Medford School Board, the Medford Water Commission, and he was the chair of the complicated Parsons Family Trust group that manages for the family the prominent properties in east Medford that includes the Roxy Ann Vineyards. Jack was the initiator in urging diversification from pears into vineyards, a venture that has been very successful.

Jack had some very, very old friends in the University Club, but also some new ones. Jack engaged old and new members. He told humorous stories. He reflected the central value and purpose of the University Club. He made friends easily and kept them.

Plan 1 emphasizes *continuity*, and that may meet the wishes of some members.

**Plan #2 - This plan involves selling the Club House and moving the Club** to leased quarters with the recommended location for the Club being in the Elks Building (which is currently undergoing extensive restoration). Like the Club’s own building, the Elks Building is on the National Register of Historic Places. It will have a restaurant and bar



Elks Building proposed library room (looking north)

installed on the main floor. We would occupy a 2,500 square foot area on that same floor. Our area would include a library (with fireplace) which is four or more times the size of the Copco/Pacific Power Library in the Club House and would continue to be called the Copco/Pacific Power Library. The Library has an occupancy capacity of 45, meaning that it will hold more people than the Club House’s first floor dining room. The Library would have informal seating (easy chairs, couches, some small tables) where Members could hang out with a computer and internet for as much of the day as they wished much like a traditional – but private – coffee shop. A

small business center may also be installed for members who wish to telecommute, depending on what the membership desires.

The Club Room, located immediately adjacent to the Library, is considerably larger than the Club House’s main floor dining room with an occupancy capacity in excess of 100. It would, therefore, hold at least twice as many individuals on a socially distanced basis than the Club House. An outside



Elks Building proposed Club Room (looking N)

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veranda is located on the west side of “our” space which Members could use in good weather. The Club House in the Elks Building would have its own private entrance and the building has on-premise parking for our Members’ use.

There would be no meal minimums. Under this plan, Members and their guests could use the Club at any time (7 days a week, both for lunches and dinners) and order food and drinks from the restaurant/bar on the same floor. Since the food would be prepared and served independent of the club, bills would need to be paid at the end of your meal and would not be billed monthly as we do currently. However, if the Membership requested, the board could certainly approach the restaurant to see adding meal/bar charges to your monthly billing.

The Club could, under this plan and assuming a certain sale price, put approx. \$150,000 in the bank from the sale of the existing club house and : (1) Supplement rent expense thereby reducing dues from the current \$80/month to approx. \$35/month (2) Supplement rent and allow for the accrual of cash at an estimated \$20,000/ year (3) Supplement rent and allow for an approx. \$45/ month dining and drink credit to be used at the adjacent restaurant.

The building owner will remodel/build out “our” rented space to our *reasonable* specifications, at their cost.

The goal of this plan is to:

1. Design a space which is more attractive/useful to younger members whom we would more actively solicit. The space is also more centrally located in the downtown area and adjacent to the Commons, which is a revitalized, very active space for younger persons.
2. Provide increased opportunities (7 days a week, for lunches and dinners) for Members to gather. Depending upon the restaurant’s schedule, breakfast might also be available.
3. Significantly reduce the cost of Club Membership and/or provide several new opportunities depending on what members want.

Plan 2 makes some assumptions about an unknown future. Our Club building has not been a place where people “hang out” or spend leisure time reading or telecommuting. If the Club is going to attract new members your Trustees believes the Club needs a new value proposition including reduced Membership costs, repositioning the Club from a lunch place for retired people into a drop in and linger space for young professionals and to available 7 days a week including for dinners.

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

**Rogue River Valley University Club**

218 West Sixth Street  
Medford, OR 97501

(541) 772-4707

admin@medfordclub.org

Further Plan Details are available at: [Plan 1 — Financial Detail](#) and [Plan 2 - Financial Detail](#)

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Medford, OR 97501